

APPLICANT(S): TRIBELSKY, Zamir
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the subject matter claimed by the present Application. Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments do not add any new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically the Office action states that allegedly there is no written description for "contaminants that are not transparent to said UV-radiation" and for "said UV-radiation is not converted into heat or sonic or ultrasonic pulses at a distal end of said stream of liquid". Claim 1 was amended by deleting the above recited terms rendering claims 1, 4 and 16-18 proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Schneider (US 3,503,804).

Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Schneider (US 3,503,804) in view of Norton (US 4,676,896) or Baca (US 2002/0079271).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in view of the remarks that follow.

Amended claim 1 recites "disinfecting the stream of liquid by directing, within said stream of liquid, said UV-radiation at an angular orientation that enables the liquid to be disinfected to serve as a flowing liquid wave guide for the UV-radiation using total internal refraction". Support for these amendments can be found, at least,

Schneider is directed to a method and apparatus for producing sonic or ultrasonic waves on a surface with a jet of water to mechanically remove dirt particles from the surface. The sonic or ultrasonic pulses or alternatively heat should be produced in the jet as close as possible to the surface to be cleaned. This can be achieved by focusing onto the surface a beam of parallel or converging energy coaxially with the liquid jet described as "clear water" (see column 2, lines 15-20). Schneider is not directed to UV and all and he specifically indicates that the radiation suitable for this cleaning method can be any radiation in the range between infrared and ultraviolet.

The liquid jet disclosed by Schneider serves as a medium for energy transfer and accordingly this "presupposes that the liquid does not offer any appreciable resistance to the radiation energy at least in the region of the jet length (clear liquid) (see column 2, lines 35-38). Schneider further emphasize that "In the case of a straight transparent liquid jet, the radiation propagating in it in the direction of its longitudinal axis is fully maintained up to the point of impingement of the liquid jet (see column 2, lines 60-65)

Further, Schneider teaches that "The liquid jet is formed of clear liquid so as not to constitute any resistance to the radiation energy of the beam" (emphasis added, see column 3, lines 73-75 of Schneider.

The Examiner acknowledged that Schneider does not teach "disinfecting the stream of liquid" but contended that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a stream of liquid that is utilized a liquid to be disinfected in order to sterilize the stream of water to avoid contamination of the surface. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As discussed above, Schneider is not concerned with sterilization of the water or the surface. The fact that Schneider specifically indicates that any radiation, not necessarily in the germicidal range, is suitable for cleaning the surfaces and that "clear water" is needed would indeed direct a person skilled in the art away from modifying his teachings to include liquid disinfection by ultraviolet radiation.

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The cleaning method disclosed by Schneider is intended for removing dirt particles from surfaces. The surfaces may include relatively large objects such as buildings, automobile, ships and streets (see col. 1, lines 40-45).

Accordingly, Schneider does not teach, at least " ", as recited by amended claim 1.

Applicant therefore asserts that independent claim 1 is allowable over Schneider.

Each of dependent claims 4 and 16-18 depends, directly or indirectly, independent claim 1, and includes all the features of the claim from which it depends as well as additional distinguishing features, and is therefore allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as being anticipated by Schneider.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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